

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

It has not been demonstrated one way or another. However, the proponents do not envision all the uses that I would like to put my digital video to. I do not believe that all the current fair uses that I enjoy with my analog media will be possible if the broadcast flag is implemented.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

I am concerned that only special hardware enabled equipment will be able to send and recieve DTV files.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I am concerned that my already sizeable investment in home entertainment and video equipment will be rendered obsolete.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

This is hard to determine. Previous technologies with sophisticated copy protection schemes, such a Mini Disc failed to achieve a critical mass of equipment and consumers.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Anything that increases system complexity usually increases costs.

Other Comments:

Myself, and most consumers, are not thieves. Given a legitimate, fairly priced, convenient alternative to piracy, we will chose honesty.

All the current fair uses that I have with analog media need to be preserved.

Antipiracy schemes in media are ineffective, in that digital media can always be rendered to analog and redigitized, with only a small lost of quality.